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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/20/2016

TAGS: PREL PARM KNNP IR EU AORC CH
SUBJECT: GERMAN POLITICAL DIRECTOR TO PRESSURE BEIJING ON IRAN; FRANCE NOW FOCUSING ON SOUTH AMERICA

Classified By: Acting Political Minister Counselor Robert Griffiths. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

- 11. (C) The German Political Director will travel to Beijing January 23-24 to lead the EU-3 effort to pressure China to support its position on Iran's nuclear program, according to German Embassy Officer Aron Mir Haschemi. In a January 19 meeting and follow-up conversation on January 20, Aron said that the MFA had yet to provide a meeting schedule or a list of interlocutors for the German Political Director to meet.
- 12. (C) France has decided to focus its efforts on IAEA Board of Governor (BOG) members in South America, according to French Embassy Counselor Fabrice Mauries. In a January 20 meeting, Fabrice told poloff that Paris believes China is a "lost cause" and will "hide behind Russia" at the IAEA BOG meeting February 2-3. Paris assesses that Beijing will abstain from voting at the IAEA BOG meeting if Russia vetoes or abstains from recommending to refer Iran to the UNSC. Therefore, France will not be sending anyone from Paris to push Beijing on the EU-3 position, however, officers from the French and British Embassies will join the German Political Director in his Beijing meetings. Randt